

# Maine Newborn Hearing Program Advisory Board

**Date: 03/21/2007**  
**12:00 to 4:00**

**Members Present:** Karen Hopkins, Romy Spitz, Julia Bell, Carrie Ouellette, Eileen Peterson, Louise Packness, Kristen Shorey

**Program Staff:** Toni Wall, Betsy Glencross, Ellie Mulcahy, Katie Blanchard, Debra Thompson

**Interpreters:** Gayle Shaw, Jillian McLaughlin

**Guest Speaker:** Bev Baker, Maine Parent Federation

**Members Absent:** Brenda Medlin, Michelle Markie, Corrine Chipman, Richard Aronson

**Moderator:** Betsy Glencross

**Scribe:** Katie Blanchard

## **I. Approval of minutes from: November 29, 2006, accepted.**

## **II. Parent Support and MNHP**

Bev Baker presented to the Board an overview of the Maine Parent Federation and what the program offers to families in Maine. She also specifically discussed what they are doing for collaborative work with MNHP.

Karen Hopkins mentioned that she is going to attend a MPF Parent Training session to see if this is something that can be used for our parent support purposes as well. Karen also mentioned that she is working on getting a Maine Chapter of Hands & Voices started.

## **III. Program Updates**

### **• MNHP-Betsy Glencross**

Betsy reported that Katie Blanchard who began on January 29, 2007 filled the vacancy in the administrative support position.

Many hours have gone into cleaning up the data in the ChildLINK database. This work has greatly improved our data. The board discussed screening of babies at home births. This is on our list of goals to work on.

Betsy is currently setting up site visits with Birthing Facilities. The plan is for her to visit 50% of the facilities by August and the remainder before the end of the year. Karen H. requested Betsy add a component to the site visit which covers how the staff explains a 'refer' result to the families.

Betsy has been working with Cindy Mervis, MNHP Epidemiologist Consultant on evaluating our data, data collection process and plans to improve these areas.

We are also working on creating a process in ChildLINK to send follow-up letters to the Primary Care Provider for those children with refer results at screening and also to send letters to both the PCP and the families of those children identified as being identified as high-risk for hearing loss.

Goodall Hospital has purchased equipment and hired an audiologist to provide for full audiological diagnostic testing of newborns referred from hearing screening.

We have been working on updating our resource sheets for Audiological Facilities and on changes to the audiologic reporting form and both should be available for distribution soon.

- **CDC Grant update – Ellie Mulcahy**

The grant renewal application was submitted to CDC on March 16, 2007. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 3-year grant cycle and covers July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008. This grant supports staffing, some travel and materials and half the cost of the ChildLINK database. The funding is for \$175,000. The next grant applications will likely be posted in the fall with submission of the grant due in February.

- **HRSA Grant update – Toni Wall**

Toni commended Betsy for the work she has done since being hired.

Betsy and Toni will be working on the HRSA Grant renewal application, which covers Sept 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008.

- **ECFS – Karen Hopkins**

Karen is working on developing a communication and monitoring system. There are currently 2 positions open for consultants.

- **CDS – Karen Hopkins**

Many issues/concerns with CDS at present. Karen is seeing many sites not serving children with hearing loss. Cumberland and Brunswick seem to be doing better than most sites. If a child is not showing a delay, they are only monitoring and not providing services. Many times it appears that families/children are not actually being seen but are only receiving a phone call from CDS. They are not paying for hearing aids. CDS is having problems getting service providers and MaineCare is not reimbursing them for the service.

The Board discussed several legislative items that are scheduled dealing with CDS. Julia mentioned that there is a public hearing scheduled for March 29 for 4 bills, LD 560: *An Act to Integrate the Approval of Early Childhood Education Plans for Children 4 Years of Age into Basic School Approval for Elementary Schools*; LD 334: *Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 182: Formula for Distribution of Funds to CDS Regional Sites*; LD 317: *An Act to Increase the Availability of Public Education Services from CDS*; and LD 836 *An Act to Enhance Special Education*.

It was suggested that Board members could contact legislators about the issues involved with these bills.

- **Early Childhood Special Education Subcommittee**

Continuing with legislative items from above, Board members were provided with a copy of the final report from the Subcommittee and discussed some of the items

included in this report and what the impact might be for CDS and the children who need CDS services. There will be a public hearing scheduled and it was suggested that Board members could contact legislators and could also provide testimony at the public hearing.

**KEY POINTS:**

**Next Steps:** Katie to send Julia the email distribution list of the current Advisory Board members

**Responsible Person:** Katie Blanchard

**Time Frame:** done

**IV. Audiologic Reporting Form – Betsy Glencross**

Betsy has been working with the ChildLINK staff to make changes to the form(s) to the reporting forms based on input received from meetings and input from members of the Maine Academy of Audiologists (MAA). The MNHP Audiology Consultant, Kathryn Girardin and the MNHP Epidemiology Consultant, Cindy Mervis have participated in planning sessions. Other audiologists will be contacted for review prior to it being implemented.

The Board suggested that a cover letter be sent to the audiologists explaining the changes and what could/could not be done with the input received from MAA members.

**KEY POINTS:**

**Next Steps:** Betsy will write a cover letter to be sent to audiologists prior to implementation of the new reporting forms

**Responsible Person:** Betsy Glencross

**Time Frame:** as soon as the final forms are completed

**V. Specialty Provider List**

The Board reviewed the cover letter written/reviewed by Betsy, Karen H. and Romy. Board members made some further suggestions on edits. Eileen and Louise agreed to work on further edits on this letter.

The suggestion was to get this Provider List to stand out so that people will want to be included. The Board agreed to form a subcommittee to work on this process. Those who volunteered to serve were: Karen Hopkins, Louise Packness, Kristen Shorey, Karen Perry, Romy Spitz, and Betsy Glencross, from MNHP staff. Karen H. will get this group set-up.

**KEY POINTS:**

**Next Steps:** 1. Cover letter to be edited and sent to Betsy  
2. Subcommittee to meet and begin work.

**Responsible Person:** 1. Eileen/Louise

2. Karen Hopkins

**Time Frame:** 1. Done

2. prior to next Board meeting

## **VI. Parent Materials**

The Parent Materials subcommittee presented the “Unilateral” booklet to the Board for their approval. The booklet was accepted by consensus. The next step is getting approval from DHHS management. Betsy has already submitted the material to Valerie Ricker, Director of Family Health for her approval and then, it needs to go to Dora Mills, Director of Maine CDC. Once this document, and the Mild packet are both approved, they will be sent to bid for printing. The original flipchart will be revised to match the format and language style of the two newer booklets and all three will be printed and distributed.

Eileen asked how they were going to be issued to the Audiologists and suggested that it be presented like a ‘gift’ and that everyone should be given a heads-up that the materials are soon to be distributed.

It was agreed that MNHP would not need to get final input from the Board as to color selection on the booklets. If the booklets go out to the printers without colors already specified we would have a greater selection of colors/paper from which to select. It was agreed that we would not use any blue or pink and that the 3 booklets would look distinctly different from each other.

Betsy would like to have the booklets printed and ready for distribution prior to the end of June as we have the printing and mailing costs included in the CDS budget for the FY ending June 30, 2007.

Julia suggested that the CDS number(s) might change and that we might want to limit the quantity printed due to this factor.

### **KEY POINTS:**

<p><b>Next Steps:</b> 1. Obtain approval for the Unilateral and Mild Booklets 2. Printing done 3. Cover letter for distribution list and make the booklets stand out!</p> <p><b>Responsible Person:</b> 1. Betsy 2. Katie 3. Betsy</p> <p><b>Time Frame:</b> Prior to end of June</p>
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## **VII. Board Membership**

Betsy reported concerns with getting responses from those she contacted on joining the Board. Specifically: Representative of the Hospitals, 2 Representatives of Health Insurance Carriers and Representative of CDS. In addition, we have other vacancies for: Culturally Deaf individual, Nurse, and we anticipate there might be another vacancy or two.

Betsy had also contacted a new ENT in Rockland/Rockport who has expressed interest in being involved with the EHDI program in Maine to see if he would be interested in joining the board. She has not heard back from him. Karen H. offered to contact him as well. Julia offered to provide a couple of possible board members names for Betsy to contact, including someone from Anthem and a parent of a child with hearing loss.

Betsy will provide Board members with the materials she sends out to potential Board members: Guidelines, MNHP law and a sample cover letter.

Katie will make sure that Karen Perry is added to the mailing lists and that the rest of the distribution list is up-to-date.

## KEY POINTS:

**Next Steps:** 1. Update current MNHP Advisory Board contact list  
2. Karen H to contact ENT  
3. Julia to email potential Board members contact information  
4. Board member mailing 'packet' provided to current Board members

**Responsible Person:** 1. Katie Blanchard  
2. Karen Hopkins  
3. Julia Bell  
4. Betsy Glencross

**Time Frame:** ? (was not defined.)

## VIII. 2007 EHDI Conference – Betsy Glencross

The conference is March 26& 27 in Salt Lake City. Betsy and Toni are attending as MNHP staff and they are also attending the DSHPSHWA (Directors of Speech & Hearing Programs in State Health & Welfare Agencies) conference on March 24&25. Kristen Shorey is attending as a representative of the Board. Karen Hopkins and Lynn Schardel from SES/ECFS and Kathryn Girardin, audiology consultant, are also attending. We will provide updates to the Board at our next meeting.

## IX. Proposed Legislation

- Amendment to MNHP Legislation LD 1142
- Task Force Resolve LD 1239

Neither of these LDs has been scheduled for public hearings or work sessions yet. The Board received the text of the bills and briefly discussed both of them. There were several questions on LD 1239, especially surrounding some of the wording and the funding requirements for the task force to function.

## X. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Our next meeting date had been set last year: **Monday, June 4.**

We also set the dates for the remaining meetings in 2007:

**Wednesday, September 26**

**Monday, December 3**

Betsy mentioned that Kathryn Girardin had been invited to give a presentation on her role as the audiology consultant to MNHP at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were some questions on the terms of the contract. Betsy stated that she would pass these concerns on to Toni.